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Connecticut Chapter
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Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

February 19, 2009

Testimony of Martin Mador

In Support of

HB 5427 An Act Concerning Green Manufacturing Programs
and the Production of Environmentally Preferred Products

HB 5488 An Act Concerning Training for Green Jobs

HB 5975 An Act Concerning Training for Green Industries

HB 6141 An Act Concerning a Task Force on Green Enterprises

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the Legislative and Political Chair of the Connecticut Sierra Club, and am here today representing our 10,000 Connecticut members concerned about the health of our environment, our economic prosperity, and our quality of life. I possess a Master's of Environmental Management degree from Yale.

The Sierra Club feels that investing in green jobs training is good for our economy, good for our workforce, and good for our environment. In fact, this is a necessary step if Connecticut is to have the human resources to robustly address 21st century issues, and to become economically healthy and competitive.

Allison Chin, national Sierra President, wrote recently:

Last week I was part of the Sierra Club delegation -- we were 250 strong -- to the second annual Good Jobs Green Jobs conference sponsored by the Blue Green Alliance. The timing and location -- the first week of February in Washington, D.C. -- were perfect, since at the time the Senate was wrestling with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which they since passed, and which will soon go to President Obama to sign. (The bill includes an almost \$100 billion investment in green jobs, energy efficiency, wind and solar power, high energy performance low carbon cars and buildings, mass transit, and a modernized water and transportation infrastructure.)

These three bills address the need for the state to take the responsibility to educate a workforce prepared to tackle the jobs the new green economy will create in the next few years. The modest cost of establishing these new training programs will not only pay dividends to the state many times over, but is in fact a necessary and mandatory investment for the state. To pass on this opportunity would undoubtedly cripple the state in future years, but significantly diminish our ability to address critically important environmental issues, such as our move to renewable energy resources.

The U.S. Metro Economies -Current and Potential Green Jobs in the U.S. Economy publication (<http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/uploads/GreenJobsReport.pdf>), prepared for the US Conference of Mayors, Oct. 2008, predicts that green jobs in four Connecticut metro areas will grow from 10,657 to 84,311 in the coming years.

The Sierra Club strongly endorses these bills, and urges the committee to vote them out quickly.